



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

JAPANESE PROGRAMME  
JAPA 113 INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY  
20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2016

**Important dates**

**Trimester dates:** 29 February to 29 June 2016

**Teaching dates:** 29 February to 5 June 2016

**Easter break:** 24–30 March 2016

**Mid-trimester break:** 25 April to 1 May 2016

**Last assessment item due:** 1 June 2016

**Study period:** 6–9 June 2016

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 10–29 June 2016

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds).

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)).

**Class times and locations**

**Lectures:** (2 hours per week)  
Wednesdays 9.00am – 10.50am CO (Cotton) LT122

**Tutorials:**

*Please note that tutorial starts in the **second** week of the trimester.*

Students must sign-up for the tutorial by using the myAllocator system:

<https://student-sa.victoria.ac.nz>. Detailed instructions are available on Blackboard. Students must remain in their allotted groups for the whole course, unless a change has been authorised by the Course Coordinator.

**Names and contact details**

**Course Coordinator:** Dr Emerald King  
Office: vZ705  
Phone: 463 6467  
Email: [emerald.king@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:emerald.king@vuw.ac.nz)

**Tutor:** Aiden Ranford (Mondays)  
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**Administrators:** Nina Cuccurullo  
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Ida Li  
Office: vZ610  
Phone: 463 5318  
Email: [ida.li@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:ida.li@vuw.ac.nz)

School Office hours: 9.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday

**Contact Person for Māori and Pasifika Students** Dr Ross Woods  
Office: vZ504  
Phone: 463 5098  
Email: [ross.woods@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:ross.woods@vuw.ac.nz)

**Contact Person for Students with Disabilities:** Dr Andrea Hepworth  
Office: vZ604  
Phone: 463 5321  
Email: [andres.hepworth@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:andres.hepworth@vuw.ac.nz)

**School Website:** [www.victoria.ac.nz/slc](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/slc)

Staff are available to consult with students during the hours indicated on their office doors.

### Communication of additional information

Any additional information relating to this course will be communicated on Blackboard and/or the Japanese notice board situated on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the von Zedlitz Building. You are urged to check Blackboard, your Victoria emails, and the noticeboard regularly.

Additionally, your Class Representative (see below) will be asked to set up a Facebook group/page which you are encouraged to join.

### Prescription

This course, taught in English, is designed to introduce students to major aspects of the history, society, cultures and language of Japan. The course will provide a good all-round basic knowledge of Japan that will be of value both to students intending to major in Japanese and those interested in Asia. No knowledge of Japanese language is required.

### Course content

The main focus of the course will be on the social organisation of Japanese society, social behaviour, and various cultural phenomena associated with Japan. The course takes an inter-disciplinary approach to the study of Japan through geography, history, anthropology, sociology, philosophy and religious studies.

Topics will include the following:

- The people, population and families
- Social structures
- Religion and thought

Socialisation and education  
Cultural concepts such as gift exchange practices and non-verbal communication  
Some aspects of Japanese literature and popular culture.

On completion of this course students should have acquired a general understanding of several fundamental aspects of modern Japanese society: its people, culture, social structure, systems and problems. Students should have acquired knowledge of how Japan has changed over past centuries to its present situation and the challenges it faces in the future.

\*A tentative schedule of the course content can be found at the end of this Course Outline.

### Course learning objectives (CLOs)

By the end of this course, students who pass should be able to:

1. demonstrate a general understanding of the development of Japanese culture and society;
2. analyse critically in writing the nature of social, economic and cultural change in Japan in a variety of contexts;
3. consider issues in Japanese Studies at a basic level from a variety of disciplinary perspectives in the humanities and social sciences (e.g. History, Sociology, Anthropology).

### Teaching format

This course consists of two hours of lectures and one hour of tutorial per week. There is no tutorial in the first week.

### Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. attend at least 80% of all tutorials (9 out of 11 tutorials) to maximise opportunities to discuss the content of the lectures and the set readings in order to achieve all of the CLOs;
2. complete the written assignment as instructed by the due date to ensure that they work towards achieving all the CLOs;
3. sit all tests (more than 10%) and complete oral presentation, in order to demonstrate achievement in the various skills of language learning, as outlined in the CLOs.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

You may attend only the tutorial you are enrolled in.

If you find you can no longer attend a tutorial time due to a change in personal circumstances, you must consult with the Course Coordinator.

### Workload

The University anticipates that you should be able to devote about 200 hours to a 20-point course including class contact time, background reading, research, and work on assessments (roughly 13 hours per week). **Please note that this is a rough guideline only.** Some students will find they need to do more, and students aiming for high grades will almost certainly need to do more.

Students aiming at high grades and those with specialised interests are urged to avail themselves of the extensive reading lists that will be provided on Blackboard in addition to 'prescribed readings.'

A possible distribution of this time each week would be:

Class and tutorial attendance	3 hours
Reading and reviewing class notes	3 hours
Tutorial preparation	4 hours

## Assessment

This course is internally assessed. The assessment for the course has been designed so as to ensure students are familiar with a number of major aspects of Japanese culture and society as well as help them develop necessary research, analytical, writing and presentation skills. Essays will give students the opportunity to pursue at greater length aspects of Japanese culture and society that particularly interest them. The Progress Test and Final Test will examine students' retention and comprehension of the general knowledge about Japan acquired during the course.

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Progress Test (approx. 90 mins)	20%	1, 2, 3	13 April
2 Journal (1,500 words)	25%	1, 2, 3	23 March; 6, 20 April
3 Essay (1,500 words)	30%	1, 2, 3	18 May
4 Final Test (approx. 100 mins)	25%	1, 2, 3	1 June

## Journal

Keep a journal of your critiques of the Prescribed Readings for the course. The purposes of the journal are (a) to introduce you to reading a wide range of relevant information in a variety of styles, (b) help you to learn how to summarise the main points, and (c) help you to learn how to critique what you read. There should be at least THREE entries of up to 500 words each. Your journal as a whole should be between 1,200 and 1,500 words. Comments should be clear, relevant, cogent and comprehensible. The deeper and more considered is your analysis, the better your grade will be. Provide complete bibliographic references for each piece.

One of the tutorials will be designed around giving you practice with the sort of analysis you will be expected to use for your journal.

Due dates for Journals:

**1<sup>st</sup> Journal due 4 pm, Wed, 23 March**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Journal due 4 pm, Wed, 6 April**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Journal due 4 pm, Wed, 20 April**

## Researched essay

The essay should be no less than 1,500 words and no more than 2,000 words. The purpose of the essay is to introduce you to researching a topic over a period of weeks, marshalling evidence for your argument, and presenting your considered academic opinion in an appropriate style of academic English. The text should be double-spaced typed and the word count given on the cover sheet. Be sure to focus on answering the question, and use carefully chosen examples to reinforce the argument of the essay. Do not pad your bibliography; it should contain references only to those books and articles you have actually read in preparation for, and referred to in, your essay.

You must submit your essay in 2 forms: both **paper** and **electronically**.

### 1. Submission of paper text:

Due in **4 pm Wed, 18 May** JAPANESE Assignment Box, von Zedlitz Building Level 6 SLC Office. You must attach the specified cover sheet.

You must check all details and sign the cover sheet.

Submit any time before the deadline.

Ensure that your name, student ID **and** course code (JAPA 113) are included on the first page of your writing.

Your paper essay text must be an **identical** printout of your electronic text.

## 2. **Electronic submission to Turnitin:**

Ensure that your name and student ID are included on the first page of your writing.

You must follow all instructions on the instruction sheet (class handout and in Essay Box of Blackboard) and the relevant all-class email.

Allow time (at least 10–15 minutes) to set up your account.

Submit using your surname + given name, in that order, please.

You may submit **only once**. Resubmissions are not possible.

Detailed instructions will be issued nearer the time.

You may submit from 4.30 pm (16:31 hours) 11 May onwards.

You **must** submit before 11.59 pm (23:59 hours) **18 May 2016**.

## **Use of Turnitin**

Student essays provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

## **Submission and return of work**

Marking criteria will be distributed in class in advance of the assignment. Tidy presentation is essential.

Work should be typed. Allow space for markers' corrections: leave a 4-centimetre margin and double space the type. Do not write in pencil.

All assignments must include a cover sheet available from the Course Materials section of Blackboard or from the School of Languages and Cultures (SLC) Reception. Detailed guidelines for the presentation of assignments will be distributed with the assignment topics. Hard copies of assignments must be submitted, and are to be handed in to the Japanese Programme assignment slot. This is located to the left of the SLC office area, vZ 610, opposite the lifts on the 6th floor of von Zedlitz. No responsibility will be taken for assignments, including essays, that have been placed in open staff mailboxes, pushed under doors, etc. You should keep all notes and rough drafts until your marked essay is returned to you.

In addition, essays (but not Reading Journals) are required to be submitted also electronically via Blackboard for checking by Turnitin (see above).

## **Extensions and penalties**

### **Extensions**

Extensions may be given in certain circumstances. Students must apply for an extension by contacting the course coordinator before the due date of a piece of assessment or date of a test. In some circumstances a medical certificate may be requested.

### **Penalties**

Assignments must be handed in on the deadlines specified to avoid penalties. **5% per day (counting an individual piece of work as 100%) will be deducted from work submitted after the assigned date** without prior permission or without an unforeseeable reason such as illness.

Please keep to the word counts; essays that fall below or go over the limit can expect to lose marks.

Students caught cheating/plagiarising others' work in any form may be listed on the University Academic Misconduct register and will be dealt with according to the University's plagiarism and academic misconduct guidelines.

### Set Texts

Prescribed readings will be available on Blackboard. A list of readings and when they are due will be presented in class. Adequate advance preparation through reading, research, informed participation and presentation in tutorials is very important. In order to get the most out of the course, you should complete the assigned reading before each relevant lecture and tutorial.

### Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:
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Class reps will attend a meeting with the Head of School to discuss how the course is going and to raise any concerns or suggestions that they may have. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on the VUWSA website: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

### Student feedback

Student feedback from 2015 has been reviewed. As a result the content of the course has been reordered. The tutorials will also be held utilizing a new format to maximise student engagement with course material.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php)

### Language Learning Centre (LLC)

The Language Learning Centre (LLC) is the University's technology-rich, multimedia centre supporting language learning.

At the LLC you can practise and extend your language learning. You can:

- Find materials to support your language studies, including dictionaries, textbooks and graded readers.
- Study independently using language learning software, audio material and DVDs.
- Find a welcoming environment with services and events, and onsite assistance and support for languages
- Become a Language Buddy or find a conversation group.

Visit the LLC on Level 0, von Zedlitz Building and take a look at our website [www.victoria.ac.nz/llc](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/llc)

### Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)

- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at [www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

## Course programme

### JAPA 113 TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF COURSE CONTENT 2016

Week	Commencing	Lecture topics	Assessment Items Due
1	29 February	Introduction; Formal writing	
2	07 March	Japan – population, geography; Origins	
3	14 March	Shinto; Myths and Legends	
4	21 March	Confucianism; Daoism	Journal 1 due 4 pm Wed, 23 March
<b>Easter break: 24 – 30 March</b>			
5	30 March		
6	04 April	The Family – past and present	Journal 2 due 4 pm Wed, 6 April
7	11 April	<b>Mid-term Test 13 April</b>	
8	18 April	Buddhism	Journal 3 due 4 pm Wed, 20 April
<b>Mid Trimester break: 25 April - 01 May</b>			
9	02 May	Festivals; Rites of Passage	
10	09 May	Education and Social Issues	
11	16 May	Gift Exchange	Research Essay due 4 pm Wed, 18 May
12	23 May	Non-verbal communication	
13	30 May	<b>Final Test 1 June</b>	